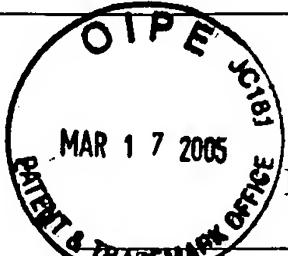


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV335377334US in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 3-17-05 Signature: Georgina Matos
(Georgina Matos)



Docket No.: 437252001200
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Mark ALVIS et al.

Application No.: 10/082,443

Confirmation No.: 6302

Filed: February 22, 2002

Art Unit: 1653

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR
IMPROVED ARTICULAR SURGERY USING
COLLAGEN

Examiner: A. Mohamed

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 20, 2004 (Paper No. 20041008), for which a response was due on January 20, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 2 month(s) extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to March 21, 2005 (March 20, 2005 is a Sunday). Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is co-filed herewith.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 18 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 19 of this paper.